



Drug Discovery Toxicology Specialty Section



President's Message

Dear Fellow DDTSS members:

It seems that it is always Spring, Summer or Fall in Southern California and even Winter is not too bad since one can still surf, fish or snow board! Our next SOT meeting in San Antonio Texas should also offer us very nice weather such that we can all enjoy the hospitality provided by the great state of Texas. I look forward to seeing you there.

If you have visited our DDTSS website, you already know that you elected new officers for 2012-2013. Filling those officer roles are **Andrew Olaharski** (Elan), VP-elect; **Eric Harstad** (Genentech), Councilor; and **Vince Ramirez** (Univ. Connecticut), Graduate Student Representative. Those who have completed their terms and are to be acknowledged for their service are **Cindy Afshari**, Past President; **Michael Breider**, Councilor and **Rachel Tanos**, Graduate Student Representative.

Once again, there was great competition from graduate students and post-docs for awards made from the Emil A. Pfizer endowment fund. The award winners are noted later in this newsletter. Many thanks to our judges who volunteered their time to

review the research abstracts and posters for these awards: **Drew Olaharski, Eric Harstad, Xi Yang, Dolo Diaz, Stefan Ruepp, Brian Gemzik and Yvonne Will.**

During 2012, your DDTSS officers reviewed proposals (symposiums, workshops, round tables, continuing education) for the 2013 SOT meeting. Six proposals requesting DDTSS sponsorship and 11 proposals seeking endorsement were reviewed and ranked based on relevance to drug discovery toxicology, scientific quality and timeliness of the topic. The final results of our recommendations will be available within the 2013 SOT meeting program.

Your DDTSS continues to be well represented by 363 SOT members. We are a group of inquisitive folks that by nature want to understand, as early as possible, the inherent toxicities of drug candidates. As we move forward, your DDTSS officers need to hear from you and leverage your thoughts on future directions that this specialty section should pursue. The Contemporary Concepts in Toxicology (CCT) meeting funding (see more in this news letter) offers an opportunity for members to plan and hold a 1-2 day meeting on toxicology topics. I know that your Vice President Yvonne Will plans to pursue this activity during the next 6-months.

I challenge you to contact Yvonne with your ideas for a CCT meeting.

See you in Texas!



John Wisler



Yvonne Will thanks Michael Breider as our outgoing councilor.



Craig Thomas offers closing remarks as he wraps up his term as President of DDTSS.

Our new councilor Eric Harstad (right) chats with DDTSS member Kyle Kolaja.

2012-2013 Officers Listing

President:

John A. Wisler

jwisler@amgen.com

Vice President:

Yvonne Will

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Vice President-Elect:

Andrew Olaharski

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Secretary/Treasurer:

Donna L. Mendrick

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Past President:

Craig E. Thomas

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Councilor:

Eric Harstad -*Newly elected*
harstad.eric@gene.com

Councilor:

Stefan U. Ruepp
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Postdoctoral Representative:

Li Zhan
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Graduate Student Representative:

Vince Ramirez
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Emil Pfitzer Fund

We want our members to be aware of the Emil A. Pfitzer Endowment fund that serves as the source of DDTSS student and postdoctoral award funding. It is used to honor outstanding abstracts presented at the annual meeting that demonstrate the application of modern approaches in the field of drug discovery.

Dr. Pfitzer served as President of the Society of Toxicology from 1985-1986. He worked at Hoffmann-La Roche for 22 years where he was the Vice President of Toxicology and Pathology and promoted the adoption of mechanistic toxicology. Following his tenure at Roche, he served for 5 years as the President of the Research Institute for Fragrance Materials (RIFM) and it is this institution that initially created this fund by a generous contribution. While the balance of the fund remains strong, each

year a greater amount is disbursed in awards than is contributed so we request that members consider donating to the fund; any contribution amount is greatly appreciated and some companies may match your personal donation to effectively double your contributions.

2012 Meeting Highlights

2012 SOT Annual Meeting Reception was held March 12, 2012 in San Francisco and was reasonably well attended by the membership. Craig Thomas, the President and Master of Ceremonies, gave the opening and closing remarks. Donna Mendrick gave the membership an overview of our current budget. The top three DDTSS Emil Pfitzer Student Awards for students were presented by Mike Breider and Stefan Ruepp presented Pfitzer awards for the top three postdoctoral fellows. These awards are funded by the Emil Pfitzer Student Award Fund within the SOT Endowment Fund. Yvonne Will recognized our new and outgoing officers. John Wisler presented ideas for DDTSS-sponsored symposia, workshops and continuing education courses for the upcoming 2013 SOT Annual Meeting.

2012 Emil A. Pfitzer Drug Discovery Student and Postdoctoral Fellow Competition Results

Awards were made at the Annual 2012 meeting with funding from the Emil A. Pfitzer endowment fund.

Student Awards:

First Place (\$1000)

Rhiannon Hardwick (University of Arizona). "Increased susceptibility to drug-induced toxicity in nonalcoholic steatohepatitis."



Second Place (\$600)

Michael Rouse (University of South Carolina School of Medicine). "Indoles alleviate the development of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE) by activation of aryl hydrocarbon and estrogen

receptors leading to altered micro-RNA regulation and suppression of Th17 activation."



Third Place (\$300)

Rachel Tanos (Pennsylvania State University). "The Ah receptor exerts a regulatory role in homeostatic control of cholesterol synthesis."



[Postdoctoral Awards:](#)[First Place \(\\$1000\)](#)

Jennifer Foreman (Penn State Univ).
"Developmental and species-specific sensitivity to PPAR α agonist-induced hepatic effects."

[Second Place \(\\$ 600\)](#)

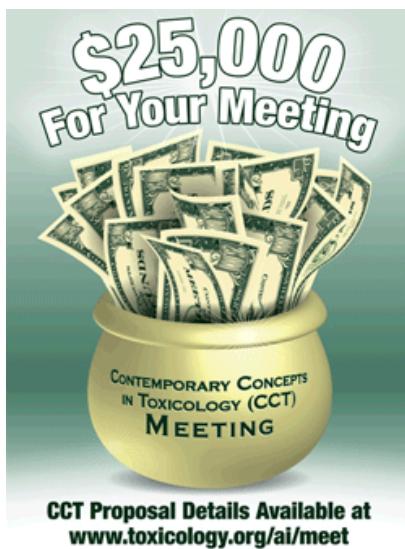
Aik Jiang Lau (Univ British Columbia).
"Functional analysis of the SV23, SV24, and SV25 splice variants of human constitutive androstane receptor (CAR): Comparison of *Ginkgo biloba* extract with other known activators of CAR."

[Third Place \(\\$300\)](#)

Xi Yang (FDA, NCTR). "Acetaminophen and carbon tetrachloride-induced changes in rat urinary microRNA profiles."



Consider Organizing a Contemporary Concepts in Toxicology Meeting



Contemporary Concepts in Toxicology (CCT) Meetings expand the opportunities and forums for members to engage in the exchange of ideas and information relevant

to toxicology.

CCT Meetings are one- to two-day focused, open registration, scientific meetings in contemporary and rapidly progressing areas of toxicological sciences. CCT Meetings also can be held as webinars.

If you think that your research area could be enhanced by thought leader collaboration or that public health and safety could be improved by disseminating your research findings more broadly, please consider organizing an SOT CCT Meeting.

The CCT Conference Committee and the SOT Headquarters staff are prepared to help move your meeting forward.

The Society will underwrite all the liabilities of the CCT Meeting (up to the \$25,000 in seed money) with the expectation that the meeting at least break even financially. Any profits from the meeting would be shared between SOT and the specialty section. For more information about CCT Meeting, please visit the [SOT website](#).

safety assessment, policy changes, etc. If you are interested in making a contribution or supplying an idea, please email Donna Mendrick (donna.mendrick@fda.hhs.gov).

Requests for Newsletter Submissions

We are always looking for ideas and contributions for future newsletters. This can be a forum for our members to bring new ideas to our attention to elicit opinions. These can be opinion pieces or the latest research developments that impact drug